

*DIBELS. Diagnostic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*

The Diagnostic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. They measure recognized and empirically validated skills related to reading outcomes.

The purpose of DIBELS Benchmark goals is to provide educators with standards for gauging the progress of all students. The Benchmark goals represent minimum levels of performance for all students to reach in order to be considered on track for becoming a reader.

DIBELS has been used in MCPS for approximately 5 years in K-2; we are moving to full implementation for grades K-5 in the 2009-10 school year.

*MONTCAS. Montana Comprehensive Assessment System*

MONTCAS is the criterion reference test (CRT) developed specifically for Montana to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The Montana CRT is intended to measure how well our students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the Montana Curriculum Standards and the MCPS curriculum in the areas of reading and math for grades 3-10 and reading and math plus science in grades 4, 8 and 10.

Most questions on MONTCAS are multiple choice where the student must choose the correct answer for each question. There are also constructed response questions where the student must write about material read or the problem solved. On most CRTs it is possible for all students to earn a passing score if they have successfully learned the material outlined in the standards and curriculum.

MONTCAS is the test used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).